

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01626 041452Z

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 467

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1626

USIAC

FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING ON SIMON TRIP - MARCH 4.

REF: USIA 5730

1. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE PICTURES, REPORTS ON SECRETARY SIMON, MINISTER RABINOWITZ SIGNING JOINT AGREEMENT, PRESS Q & A SESSION FOLLOWING.

2. HAARETZ FRONTPAGED PICTURES OF SECRETARY AT KNESSET, REPORTED ON 3-DAY TALKS UNDER HEADLINE: "POSSIBLE US AID TO EXPANDING ISRAEL DEFENSE INDUSTRY."

3. SECOND STORY BE ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT AITAN LIFSHITZ (HEADLINED: "SIMON'S VISIT: NO TURNING POINT IN US-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONS; NEW SPIRIT SEEN -- GOV' OFFICIALS SATISFIED WITH GUESTS PRAISE OF FINANCE MINISTER'S POLICY") SAYS VISIT WAS SEEN AS "GOOD AND PRODUCTIVE." LIFSHITZ QUOTES PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOC., AVRAHAM SHAVIT, AS SAYING SIMON VISIT WAS "VERY IMPORTANT".

4. HAARETZ BELIEVES MR. SIMON'S PRAISE WAS "GENUINE", BUT CITES TWO POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES: (1) ARB BOYCOTT, "ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01626 041452Z

FIRM ENOUGH" TO ISRAEL MIND, AND (2) U.S. INVESTMENTS

IN ISRAEL, WHICH IN "SEC. SIMON'S VIEW ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO PEACE IN AREA WHEREAS ISRAELI OFFICIALS TEND TO BLAME RATHER RED TAPE AND ARAB BOYCOTT."

5. HAARETZ EDITORIAL CALLS VISIT "VERY PRODUCTIVE, DESCRIBES SIMON AS "INTENSIVE AND SMILING." PAPER SAYS: "HE ADVANCED ALL VISIT'S OBJECTIVES."

6. YEDIOT AHARONOT HEADLINES "US TO HELP ISRAEL LESSEN DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN AID; US WILL PROVIDE WHEAT & RAW MATERIALS." ECONOMIC WRITER ZVI KESSLER SAYS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF AGREEMENT IS THAT "ISRAEL WON'T SUFFER IN TIMES OF WORLD SHORTAGE IN BASIC COMMODITIES AND RAW MATERIALS, SINCE US WOULD TAKE CARE OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS."

7. AL HAMISHMAR HEADLINES "SIMON'S VISIT OPENS WAY OF EXPORT TO US ARMY." DAVAR AND JERUSALEM POST PLAYED UP STATEMENTS THAT "SIMON WILL HELP ISRAEL SELL MORE TO U.S. "DAVAR NOTED THAT ARAB BOYCOTT WAS MENTIONED "ALBEIT DISCREETLY, IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WITHOUT MENTIONING 'DEVIL' BY NAME."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV01626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-1215
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760393/aaaadeas.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING ON SIMON TRIP - MARCH 4.
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, IS, US, (SIMON, WILLIAM E)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006